



Egremont News

Issue 71

September, 2013

Rules & Regulations of this Newsletter:

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep residents informed of what is going on in our community. It is printed on a bi-monthly basis by the Selectmen's Office Staff. Articles submitted by Town Boards are not edited by the Select Board or Office Administrator. Outside organizations are allowed to submit articles of no longer than one column length. These articles are to be factual and will not be printed if they contain any political format, forum, or communication. We welcome reader input and hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter.

Selectmen:

A temporary CO was issued for our new Police Facility in July. The Police Department has been slowly moving in and should be settled in by the first week of September. Once the rooms in the Town Hall have been vacated by the Department, and some minor repairs are made, the Selectmen's Office Staff, Mary and Will, are moving in to the two rooms on the first floor. This will allow for more meeting space in the down stairs meeting room.

The request for proposals is being drafted for the two Historic Preservation Grants for the structural studies to be conducted on the Library building and the South School House. The grant requires the Town to install bright red signs at both properties. The signs are not as appropriate as they could be in an historic district but are required to be installed under the State specifications.

Egremont's long time Building Commissioner Tom Race has resigned. The Town will miss his fair and consistent enforcement of the State Building Code. The Town welcomes back Ned Baldwin as Building Commissioner. Ned was the Town's Commissioner for the period of time from early in 2006 to late in 2008. Ned starts on Wednesday, September 4, and then will continue to do Tuesdays 12:30 to 3:30pm.

The annual audit of the Town's financial records will begin on September 3. The additional audit of the Water Department that was approved at the May 7 Special Town Meeting, to be supervised by the Finance Committee, is being contracted for at this time and will involve not only an independent financial audit, but will also include a management and operational study of the Water Department. This audit is to be completed no later than November 1, 2013.

There will be a Special Town Meeting on September 30th, 2013 at 7pm at Mt. Everett. Save the date. The warrant will be out to the public, and will be sent via our email list the week of September 9.

Flu Clinic:

September 19, 2013, from 11am to 1pm, North Egremont Fire Station.

ECO-TIP

Leftover or **expired drugs** in your medicine cabinet? Do not flush them! Just drop them in the bin in the foyer of the GB PD. It takes 30 seconds -- no one to see, nothing to sign.

E 9-1-1:

Our 911 Coordinator Vince Murphy, is required to report to Verizon any persons who have a disability. If you have any sort of disability, or need any extra help from emergency personnel please notify Town Hall.

Board of Health:

The heavy rains of May and June led to higher than normal mosquito activity in Egremont in early summer. Many people contacted the Board of Health and asked if Egremont had a town policy for mosquito control or what could be done to reduce mosquito activity around their homes. The cooler, drier weather of early August thankfully reduced the mosquito population considerably but as of this writing warmer, more humid weather is expected.

What residents should keep in mind is that since mosquito activity can fluctuate during summer it is always a good idea to apply mosquito repellent to help reduce your exposure to mosquito bites.

West Nile Virus (WNV) infected mosquitoes have been found in many counties in Massachusetts this summer. While there have been no human cases prevention and protection are avoiding the possibility of infection. Similarly there have been no human cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) to date this summer but an alert in central Massachusetts has been issued as confirmed cases in horses have been identified.

Residents are highly encouraged to practice good personal prevention behaviors to avoid mosquito bites. In addition to applying mosquito repellent those prevention behaviors include draining buckets, barrels, tarps and wheel barrows to avoid water accumulation, change water twice a week in birdbaths and outdoor pet water dishes, keep rain gutters clean of debris and check children's outdoor toys for water accumulation.

The Commonwealth has a very good web site for monitoring the risk level for both WNV and EEE. You can find it at www.mass.gov/dph. As of this writing the risk level for Egremont is "remote" the lowest level on the scale. It is still a good idea to apply insect repellent when outdoors to protect you from both mosquitoes *and* ticks. Protection and prevention go hand-in-hand.

Sustainability Coordinator

The community compost bin at the Transfer Station is up and running and participation has been great. To date, we've given away close to fifty compost buckets and that number grows daily.

Not familiar with the town-wide composting program? Here's how it works – go to town hall and get your free compost bucket. Keep it in your kitchen when you're preparing meals and put your food scraps (fruit and vegetable peelings, coffee grounds, etc.) in it. When you come to the Transfer Station with your regular trash bring the bucket with you and dump the contents in the compost bin. The pile will be turned regularly by a member of our highway crew and then after a few months will be moved to the center section where it will age further. By the time the material is moved to the third section it will be compost ready for your garden and all Egremont residents are invited to help themselves to it.

Composting organic material like kitchen scraps is a great way for us to reduce our annual garbage tonnage *and* to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Did you know that when organic material is covered over in a landfill it becomes methane gas? Methane gas is four times more harmful to the environment than carbon dioxide.

Your efforts do make a difference. Egremont has a very high recycling rate and now let's all work towards building an excellent composting rate. Give Juliette Haas a call at 528-0182 x 22 if you have any questions.

ECO-TIP

Do you have something of value that you don't need anymore, but you're sure someone can use it? Contact your Egremont neighbors via NeighborNet before throwing it away. Homes have been found for bricks, packaging materials, etc.

Treasurer\Tax Collector:

FY 2014 – Real Estate

& Personal Property Tax.

Preliminary Real Estate & Personal Property tax bills were mailed June 28, 2013 and due by August 1st, 2013. The next payment will be due November 1, 2013. Since the bills are preliminary, there is no current property information on the bills. That information will be included on the actual bill after the tax rate is set in November.

Tax Payments – Please remember to include the bottom portion of your tax bills when remitting your payment. If your taxes are escrowed with your mortgage holder, they will remit the tax owed.

Please note: Questions concerning your actual tax must be directed to the Board of Assessor's Office, Tuesday and Thursday 9- 12.

Cemetery Commissioners:

On Wednesday August 7 the Egremont Cemetery Commissioners met at Hillside Cemetery just off Route 71 on Egremont Plain Road. The board voted unanimously to raise the price for cemetery plots to 400.00 per plot. This increase will go into effect on October 1, 2013. Residents interested in buying a cemetery plot are to contact: Henry D. Granger, Cemetery Commission Clerk. Henry can be reached at: 528.1273.

The commissioners also met with Egremont Road Superintendent Tim Hosier. The intent is to determine the best course of action to have the access road to Hillside Cemetery (on town property) upgraded. The road's drainage conditions must be corrected, and re-surfacing must be done in the very near future.

ECO-TIP

Aluminum cans are 100% recyclable, infinitely! Your soda can will be turned into a new can again and again - as long as you redeem it or recycle it.

Egremont Historical Commission:

For those who attended the Friends of Egremont History's Civil War Basket Picnic in July, you know that this group of hard working volunteers gave the Town an extraordinary afternoon of theatre, music and history brought to life. We thank all the members and the volunteers of FoEH for their hard work and enthusiasm in promoting our heritage and hope we see more from them in the future.

As you drive by the Egremont Village School and the Egremont Free Library you will see signs going up about the work to be done on these buildings under our Mass. Historical Commission grants. Out of 50 applicants, only 19 were funded, a measure of the value placed by the state on the historic nature of our buildings and their continued purposing as the school and library of our community for over 130 years. Thank you all for your votes at Town Meeting.

The Commission will be hosting a class on MACRIS later this fall. MACRIS is the State listing of historic housing and can be found online under that acronym. Those interested should contact Susan Bachelder for further details.-528 6505.

Lastly, the Commission will be turning 40 next year and we are thinking of having a 1970's block party – yes time flies. Start looking for those old photos, Polaroids, autograph books, old phone books, birthday cards, matchbook covers, vinyl records, or any records you have of the Town in the mid twentieth century that you can share with us. Call Town Hall for details. We are open 1st Saturday of every month from 9 to noon, or by appointment.

Egremont Free Library:

I've had the great pleasure of meeting regular patrons, their family and friends, Egremont visitors, and a few Appalachian Trail hikers this summer at the Egremont Free Library. The library's open house on July 6 was a great success. About 80 people came to say hello, check out the library's makeover and share stories of what the Egremont Free Library means to them. The support, engagement and use of the library in Egremont are special and appreciated by the community and visitors alike.

As Fall approaches (and then, dare I say it, Winter...) the library will be here for books, games, crafts and other community programs and events. I send weekly emails to the Egremont Posts Google group and have an Egremont Free Library "fan" page on Facebook, which is updated weekly as well. If

you're not receiving emails from me, don't hesitate to contact me at EGRLibrary@egremont-ma.gov or call me at 528-1474 to add your email to the list. It's private and never shared. I send emails "blind" so that your email is not visible to other patrons. If you would like more frequent updates and you don't like using the Internet, please don't hesitate to call me at 528-1474 during library hours. If you are home and can't get to the library for health reasons, let me know. We have some volunteers willing to bring books to you and/or read to you.

I'm working with an Egremont resident to bring a regular game program to the library. There are board games that bring all age groups together that are fun and last up to an hour, so stay tuned for more details. When the January doldrums hit, we'll be sure to have some entertaining games in full swing to inspire some amusement and connection.

If you have relatives across the miles (nationally and internationally) and want to connect with them for free, come to the library and learn and/or use Skype. Skype allows you to connect with family and friends via video chatting. It's free if the person you're contacting has Skype on their device (computer, smart phone, tablet, etc.) The high speed internet at the library allows for real-time communication with your loved ones.

Many people have asked when the library is open, so as a reminder, the Egremont Free Library's hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. If you haven't made your way to the library recently, please know you're always welcome.

This small community has many voracious readers with a variety of tastes in novels, literature, non-fiction, etc. I order books weekly, so I always welcome input, suggestions and requests. If we don't have the book you're looking for, we can order it via interlibrary loan, which is delivered every Tuesday to our library. I look forward to seeing you at the library!

South Egremont Congregational Church:

The members of the First Congregational Church of South Egremont wish to thank all those who supported our recent Chicken Parmesan dinner. It was very successful.

Our next dinner will be November 9.. It will be a Roast Pork dinner with a "Holiday" Chinese Auction. Anyone who would like to donate "holiday" items for the auction may call 528-2368 or leave a message on the Church answering system at 528-2209.

Hope to see you all there.

We are also looking forward to having the Becket Praise Team with us during September or October... date and time to be announced.. Watch Egremont Posts for details.

ECO-TIP

Eager to donate your **computer** to Goodwill but you want to destroy the data first? Go to http://reviews.cnet.com/4520-11412_7-6488768-4.html for free solutions. Remember that Goodwill takes ALL computer-related stuff (yes, ALL! even broken monitors), FREE!

News bit from Bev Almond:

Fareed Yasseen is a long-time friend of our family. He is now the Iraqi Ambassador to France.

In response to our message to him at the end of the month of Ramadhan, he replied - "I just spent a week in Baghdad, where things could be better, and I wanted to tell you that there is a page out of Harry's (Almond) book on Jamali which has been hugely enlarged and which is in the middle of the atrium of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. I had given a copy of Harry's book on Jamali to the Minister, and he really enjoyed it."

Friends of Prospect Lake:

The Lake

After the initial concern with lake water quality, the lake was fine all summer. It appears that the curleyleaf pondweed may be finally diminishing. There was not as much as of it this summer. Currently the tapegrass, a local weed, is in evidence. It floats on the surface of the water after it gets uprooted. There was no algae treatment done this year. On a daily basis you can see swimmers going across the width of the lake and every so often there are some very brave ones doing the length. There is a new paddle board joining the usual sunfish sailboats, kayaks, canoes, and flat-bottom boats. It looks graceful and peaceful as it floats on the water. It is comforting for the swimmers that there are very, very few motor boats.

Fauna

This year we witnessed a very special event. Green herons built a nest near our property. They broke twigs directly from trees and built a nest with them. Although we saw the bush they landed in, it was so well camouflaged that we were not able to spot the nest itself. After a while, we saw three fledglings

walking on the branches of the bush, they progressed to nearby bushes, then to the docks, and finally they disappeared. We do hope they come back next year. The big blue heron is still flying around, landing on the float, and sometimes making loud noises for no visible reason.



Blue Heron's Nest



Fledglings

In addition, July saw the arrival of a new visitor: an immature cormorant. It hung around on a mid-lake float for several days, often spreading its wings wide as it rested, as if to air or dry them.



Immature Cormorant

Fish seemed particularly abundant this year, and we had the usual complements of muskrats and beavers and water snakes and turtles.

Fundraising

The tag sale was a success! Our proceeds totalled over \$2,800. We are grateful to all the neighbors who contributed goods, shoppers who spent money, and all the volunteers who priced, carted goods to the general store, sold and cleaned up. Special thanks to Frank and Diana who generously let us use the space in front of the store and the business and individuals who donated gift certificates and prizes. The following won the raffle prizes:

Molly Houghton! Egremont Village Inn gift certificate
Catherine Kane! Fudge cake

David Susskind! Friends of Prospect Lake cake
 Peggy Barrett! Wine basket
 Mark Roggen! Swiss Hutte gift certificate
 Gloria Topping! Sweet Water Farm gift certificate
 Leslie Alfin! Wine
 Cheryl Bassett! Old Mill gift certificate
 Rikke Borge! John Andrews gift certificate
 Ellen Proctor! Gans Bedding gift certificate

Meeting schedule:

Meeting regularly. Subject to change. Please see postings of meetings at Town Hall and the Post Offices for more detail. This is not official.

Archives Room - First Saturday 9-noon
 or by appointment

Assessors - Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am to 12noon &
 by appointment

Council on Aging - Third Thursday of each month
 at 4pm. Other times as needed.

Board of Health - Monday- 8am to 1pm, Tuesday
 8:30am to 12pm & 12:30 to 2:30pm, Wednesday &
 Thursday 8am to 1pm. Meetings - Thursdays as posted
 9am to 11am

Board of Selectmen - Meetings every other Monday
 evenings 7pm. Office weekdays 7am to 3pm.

Building Inspector - Tuesday 12:30pm to 3:30pm.
 Other times and inspections by appointment

Conservation Commission - Second and Fourth
 Thursdays 7:00pm

Finance Committee - Wednesdays 5:30pm January
 through April. Other times as needed.

Library - Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 2-6pm &
 Saturday 9-12noon 413-528-1474

Planning Board - Second & Fourth Monday 7:30pm

School Committee: Second & Fourth Thursdays 6pm
 Mt. Everett High School Library

Tax Collector: Monday - Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm

Town Clerk - Every other Tuesday evenings 6pm-
 8pm, Tuesday mornings 9am to 12noon
 or by appointment

Transfer Station - Tuesday & Thursday 8am to 1pm,
 Saturday 8am to 3pm, Sunday 12noon to 4pm

Water Department - Meetings second Thursday
 4:30pm at Town Hall

Zoning Board of Appeals - as needed

To reach a board member or to leave a
 message please call the Town Hall 528-0182.

Business listings:

In an effort to promote local small businesses, the following businesses/services located in, or near, Egremont have agreed to be listed here. If we missed asking you and you wish to be included, please send your information to the Town Hall.

Prospect Lake Park and Campground -
 camping, swimming
 413-528-4158 prospectlk@aol.com
www.prospectlakepark.com
 Egremont residents receive a discount to access the beach.

The Silo B&B - guest accommodations
 413-528-5195

The Inn at Sweet Water Farm - B&B
 1 Prospect Lake Road
 413-528-2882
www.innsweetwater.com

The Egremont Village Inn - Lodging & restaurant
 413-528-9580

John Andrews' Restaurant - Restaurant
 413-528-3469

Swiss Hutte Country Inn and Restaurant-
 Restaurant & Lodging
 413-528-6200
www.swisshutte.com

Robin's Chair Caning - Chair caning and repairs.
 Robin Walther
 116 Egremont Plain Road
 413-528-2537
robinschaircaning@gmail.com

Howard's Antiques - Antique Lighting & Restoration
 413-528-1232
www.howardsantiquelighting.com

Red Barn Antiques - Antique lighting & fine metal
 polishing
 413-528-3230

Home - Asian Antiques & Interior Objects
 195 Hillsdale Road (Route 23)
 413-528-5383
www.homeasianantiques.com

41 Main Antiques Gallery - Vintage and modern
 furniture, antiques, collectibles, architectural and
 decorative objects.
 413-528-0112
www.41mainantiques.com

Blue Rider Stables - Therapeutic Horseback Riding
Lessons, summer programs
www.bluerider.org
413-528-5299

Green River Arabians & Pintos -
Horse Boarding, lessons, judging.
413-528-2367 arabpinto13@yahoo.com

Indian Line Farm - Community Supported Agriculture
(CSA) & Farmers Markets
413-528-8301
www.indianlinefarm.com

Ivory Pond Farm -
Llamas, Yarn and Woolens. Dancing Crane
Rug Hooking Studio. Hooked rugs, lessons
and supplies.
Tom & Liz Marino
413-528-9465
www.lizmarinorughooking.com
Llamama@wildblue.net

Turner Farms Maple Syrup - Phillips Road, open 7am
to 7pm 7 days a week. 413-528-5710

B&S Gventer "Books & Ephemera" - Buy & Sell
Books
www.bookfairs.com
413-528-2327

Elfi Six Shiatsu/Acutonics®, Bodywork
413-644-9979
www.CosmicResonance.com

Zorn Family Chiropractic-Chiropractor
44 Main Street, South Egremont
413-528-9654
healingspiritdc@yahoo.com

Zorn Core Fitness -
Personal, Couples & Group Training
Cardio Room - \$25 per month Free 1 month
cardio for Egremont residents
46 Main Street, South Egremont
413-528-1594
www.zorncorefitness.com
zornari@gmail.com

Yoga at Zorn Core Fitness, with Karin Beebe
Ashtanga Yoga & Gentle/Hatha Yoga
46 Main Street
413-528-0828
kbyoga@gmail.com

Divine Automotive - Automotive repair
413-528-8007

Old Egremont Country Store - groceries, beer, wine,
liquor, newspapers, lottery, & much more
413-528-4796

Blueberry Lane Home Design - Interior decorating
413-528-9633

Closet Collection - clothing & household
consignment shop
413-528-6236

Berkshire Veneer Company - wholesale/retail
wood veneer sales
413-644-9696

Toull Construction - Jobs large and small.
Lord St. Pierre
413-528-5548

"Jack of All Trades"-Handyman Services
Jack Buckley
413-528-1982
413-446-1982

Ron Brazie Jr - Full service property maintenance and
management.
413-717-2889

Catamount Ski Area - Skiing & ropes course
413-528-1262
www.catamountski.com

Anita Schilling - Real Estate Listing & Sales
William Pitt Sotheby's
413-528-4192 or 413-626-1920
anitaschilling@gmail.com

Florence F. Browner Real Estate - Full Service
90 Creamery Road
413-528-3266
flobro@wildblue.net

Kenver Ltd - Winter Sports Equipment, Apparel &
Accessories
39 Main Street
413-528-2330
www.kenverltd.com

Maple Leaf Art Gallery - Joan Mentzinger
154 Hillsdale Road, Route 23

The Agency Without Walls - Helen Krancer
Marketing Consulting and Copywriting That
Get Results. 413-644-9700
helen@agencywithoutwalls.com

Cyber Knight - Matthew Wall
PC repairs - Networking - Internet
413-528-5415
Matthew.wall@yahoo.com

Dellea.biz Computer Services - Arthur Dellea
<http://www.dellea.biz>
413-528-1141

James Olmsted - Outdoor Services & Caretaking

Field mowing

413-528-0102

pager 413-261-2150

Berkshire Wildlife Solutions - Resolving conflicts

with nature. Eric F. Ives

Mass Problem Animal Control Agent

Consultation/Inspection, Capture, removal and
exclusionary work.

413-528-9813 413-250-5094

Berkshire Preserves: Small Batch Homemade

Marmalade and Jams

Barbara Fields

413-528-2824

Brookside Quiltworks - Catherine Kane - fabric shop

and quilt gallery. 2 Sheffield Road, Egremont

413-528-0445 www.brooksidequiltworks.com

Maple Shade Enterprises: Quilts and Sew much more

Sue Delmolino Ives

413-644-0229 susandelmolino@yahoo.com

Gregory Cherin photography

South Egremont 1-917-991-0553

info@gregorycherin.com

www.gregorycherin.com

Berkshire South Regional Community Center

15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington MA

413-528-2810 www.berkshiresouth.org

Non-profit community organization serving 17

towns throughout the Southern Berkshires.

Providing a variety of educational,

recreational and cultural programs for all ages

- from early childhood to senior citizens - and

partners with several local organizations.

Gogel & Gogel - Law Firm

Business law & litigation

40 Main Street

413-528-2698

www.gogel-gogel.com

Chloe Wosczyzna's travels: to view go to

www.studleyofegremont.com

House To House Hauling & Recycling

Trash hauling services and roll-off containers
services.

413-528-0943

Support local businesses

OLD FOLKS

By Stanley R. Fanum

OLD FOLKS, THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT OLD FOLKS,

I GUESS THAT THEY'RE ALL SO – KIND OF NICE.

SEE, IT'S PARTLY THAT THEY'VE GOTTEN PAST THE
SILLY THINGS

MOST EVERYBODY GOES THROUGH ONCE OR TWICE.

IT TAKES A WHILE FOR THE YOUNG CROWD

TO FIND WHAT OLD FOLKS ARE ALL ABOUT.

IF THEY'RE LUCKY, THEY FIND OUT PRETTY QUICKLY,

THAT THEY'RE MOSTLY THERE, TO HELP THE
YOUNGUNS OUT.

YOU SEE, I AM ONE OF THESE OLD-TIMERS,
AND I CAN TELL THESE KIDS THERE'S SOMETHING
THEY'LL FIND OUT,

AND WHEN THEY FINALLY REACH – SAY MIDDLE AGE,
THEY MIGHT SEE WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

YOU SEE, SNOW MAY REST UPON THEIR BROW,
AND THE SHOULDERS NOT AS STRAIGHT AS YEARS
BEFORE,

THEY MAY SHUFFLE SOME INSTEAD OF DANCE

AND MAY NOT SEEM TO YOU SOMEHOW,

TO BE PART OF WHAT THE WORLD IS NOW.

BUT, SOMETIMES GAZE INTO THEIR EYES,
LOOK FAR WITHIN, LIKE TO A DEEP CLEAR WELL,
AND THERE IS SOMETHING YOU WILL REALIZE.

FOR EACH OF THEM WAY DOWN INSIDE, IS A LITTLE
BOY OR GIRL

AND EACH OF THEM YOUNG MAN OR MAID,
AND ALL OF THEM HAVE KNOWN TRUE LOVE,

AND ONE AND ALL THEY'VE PLAYED,
THE GRAND GAMES OF THIS ANCIENT WORLD,
SO THEY KNOW HOW YOU SHOULD PLAY.

NOW LOOK YOU WELL AND LISTEN CLOSE
TO WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY.

FOR ONE DAY YOU WILL ANCIENT BE
AND FIND OUT JUST LIKE THEY AND ME,
THAT THOUGH YOU'VE LEARNED THE WORLDLY
SCORE,

INSIDE YOU'RE JUST THE SAME GUY AS BEFORE,
YOU

BECAME

AN

OLD

FOLK!



Town of Egremont

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South Egremont MA 01258

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tegrement@egremont-ma.gov

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